

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method of providing acoustic management in a computer comprising:  
receiving from a user instructions regarding a selected acoustic level  
via an interface; and  
adjusting an operational level of at least one subsystem of the  
computer to achieve the selected acoustic level.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
subsequent to the adjusting, demonstrating to the user the selected  
acoustic level.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the adjusting an operational level of at least  
one subsystem of the computer comprises adjusting a seek time of a hard  
disk drive of the computer.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the adjusting an operational level of at least  
one subsystem of the computer comprises adjusting the speed of an internal  
fan.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the adjusting an operational level of at least  
one subsystem of the computer comprises making corresponding  
adjustments to overall operation of a portion of the computer to maintain a  
heat production level of the computer at a level that can be managed by the  
internal fan operating at the adjusted speed.

**PATENT**

Docket No.: No.: DC-02601 (16356.567)

- 1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the adjusting an operational level of at least  
2 one subsystem of the computer is performed using redefined power  
3 management levels of the computer.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the adjusting an operational level of at least  
2 one subsystem of the computer comprises adjusting a speed of a peripheral  
3 bus, with corresponding adjustments to a speed of at least one peripheral  
4 device connected to the peripheral bus.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising, prior to the receiving, displaying a  
2 graphical user interface for enabling the user to select an acoustic level.
- 1 9. A system for providing acoustic management in a computer comprising:  
2 means for receiving from a user instructions regarding a selected  
3 acoustic level; and  
4 means for adjusting an operational level of at least one subsystem of  
5 the computer to achieve the selected acoustic level.
- 1 10. The system of claim 9 further comprising:  
2 means for previewing to the user the selected acoustic level  
3 subsequent to the adjusting.
- 1 11. The system of claim 9 wherein the means for adjusting an operational level of  
2 at least one subsystem of the computer comprises means for adjusting a  
3 seek time of a hard disk drive of the computer.
- 1 12. The system of claim 9 wherein the means for adjusting an operational level of  
2 at least one subsystem of the computer comprises means for adjusting the  
3 speed of an internal fan.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein the means for adjusting an operational level of at least one subsystem of the computer comprises means for making corresponding adjustments to overall operation of a portion of the computer to maintain a heat production level of the computer at a level that can be managed by the internal fan operating at the adjusted speed.

14. The system of claim 9 wherein the means for adjusting an operational level of at least one subsystem of the computer comprises a power management system of the computer.

15. The system of claim 9 wherein the means for adjusting an operational level of at least one subsystem of the computer comprises means for adjusting a speed of a peripheral bus, with corresponding adjustments to a speed of at least one peripheral device connected to the peripheral bus.

16. The system of claim 9 wherein the means for receiving comprises a graphical user interface for enabling the user to select an acoustic level.

17. A computer including an acoustic management system, the computer comprising:  
a processor for executing instructions;  
at least one subsystem having more than one operational levels;  
means for receiving from a user instructions regarding a selected acoustic level; and  
means for adjusting an operational level of the at least one of the subsystem to achieve the selected acoustic level.

**PATENT**

Docket No.: No.: DC-02601 (16356.567)

- Sub C5
- 1 18. The computer of claim 17 further comprising:  
2 means for previewing to the user the selected acoustic level  
3 subsequent to the adjusting.
- Sub A5
- 1 19. The computer of claim 17 wherein the means for adjusting an operational  
2 level of the at least one subsystem of the computer comprises means for  
3 adjusting a seek time of a hard disk drive of the computer.
- 1 20. The computer of claim 17 wherein the means for adjusting an operational  
2 level of the at least one subsystem of the computer comprises means for  
3 adjusting the speed of an internal fan.
- 1 21. The computer of claim 20 wherein the means for adjusting an operational  
2 level of the at least one subsystem of the computer comprises means for  
3 making corresponding adjustments to overall operation of a portion of the  
4 computer to maintain a heat production level of the computer at a level that  
5 can be managed by the internal fan operating at the adjusted speed.
- 1 22. The computer of claim 17 wherein the means for adjusting an operational  
2 level of the at least one subsystem of the computer comprises a power  
3 management system of the computer.
- 1 23. The computer of claim 17 wherein the means for adjusting an operational  
2 level of the at least one subsystem of the computer comprises means for  
3 adjusting a speed of a peripheral bus, with corresponding adjustments to a  
4 speed of the at least one peripheral device connected to the peripheral bus.
- Sub C7
- 1 24. The computer of claim 17 wherein the means for receiving comprises a  
2 graphical user interface for enabling the user to select an acoustic level.

**PATENT**

Docket No.: No.: DC-02601 (16356.567)

Sub A6

25. A computer program product, comprising:  
a computer program processable by a computer system for causing the computer system to:  
receive from a user instructions regarding a selected acoustic level via an interface;  
adjust an operational level of at least one subsystem of the computer to achieve the selected acoustic level; and  
apparatus from which the computer program is accessible by the computer system.

Sub ca

26. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the computer program is processable by a computer system for causing the computer system to demonstrate to the user the selected acoustic level subsequent to the adjusting.

27. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the computer program is processable by a computer system for causing the computer system to display a graphical user interface for enabling the user to select an acoustic level.

Sub A7

28. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the adjusting an operational level of at least one subsystem of the computer comprises an action selected from a group consisting of adjusting a seek time of a hard disk drive of the computer, adjusting the speed of an internal fan, using redefined power management levels of the computer, and adjusting a speed of a peripheral bus, with corresponding adjustments to a speed of at least one peripheral device connected to the peripheral bus.

**PATENT**

Docket No.: No.: DC-02601 (16356.567)

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the adjusting the speed of the internal fan further comprises making corresponding adjustments to overall operation of a portion of the computer to maintain a heat production level of the computer at a level that can be managed by the internal fan operating at the adjusted speed.